

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 12, 13 and 16-38 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 9-11, 14 and 15 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, claims 1 and 12 are amended and claims 21-38 are added. Support for new claims 21-38 is found in Figs. 3-7 and its related disclosure in the specification. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 9-15 recite allowable subject matter and that claims 16-20 are allowed. For the following reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REPLY TO REJECTIONS

On page 2, item 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,150,589 to Williams et al. (hereinafter "Williams"). Further, on page 3, item 4 of the Office Action, claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Williams, in view of German Application No. DE 4335966 to Oltmanns.

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 9. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. Claims 2-8 are allowable for at least their dependence from claim 1 and for their added features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2005

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II. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 21-38 are also patentable over the references of record. Prompt consideration and allowance of new claims 21-38 are also respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

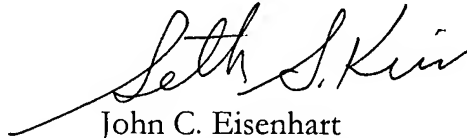
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Seth S. Kim**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Eisenhart", written over a horizontal line.

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